GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4462
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
MEDICAL AID TO ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS
Joshi Shri Mahesh

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision exist in the IPC, Cr.PC and Motor Vehicles Act which prevents doctors from attending to seriously injured persons and victims of road accidents before police take due note of it;

(b) if so, whether in order to bring down the death rate of road accidents, the matters relating to sensitising policemen and medical staff to provide medical aid immediately during the golden hour has been taken up with the concerned authorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give wide publicity at hospitals and police stations about the need to provide immediate medical aid to the road accident victim; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in one of their judgments had clearly stated that there are no provision in the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Motor Vehicles Act, which prevents doctors from promptly attending to seriously injured persons and accident cases before arrival of police. Hon'ble SC has also stated that every injured citizen brought to the Hospital for medical treatment should instantaneously be given medical aid. The Motor Vehicle Act was further amended to this effect in 1994, to make it mandatory that the doctors would treat the accident victims without waiting for any formalities. A detailed circular containing all these provisions of SC order was issued by this Ministry to all the states and UTs on 9th September, 2004.

(b) to (e) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has written a letter on 7th May 2010 to Ministry of Health and Family welfare highlighting the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order in this regard and requesting them to direct all the hospitals and doctors to attend the accident victim during the golden hour without waiting for any formalities and without any apprehension of police for being involved in these medico legal cases. Similarly Ministry of Home affairs has also been requested to give the training to entire police force so as to handle the accident victims with compassion and utmost urgency.